

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6178

S E C R E T CAIRO 8648

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR US

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S RECOMMENDATION RE SOVIETS AND TOMORROW'S  
GENEVA MEETING

1. FAHMY ASKED ME TO COME BY AT 1500 TODAY ON SHORT  
NOTICE. HE STATED SOVIET CHARGE HAD BEEN BY YESTERDAY  
AFTERNOON TO GIVE HIM A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV TO  
SADAT SIMILAR TO THE SOVIET MESSAGE YOU HAD SHOWN  
HIM IN ALEXANDRIA. TODAY SOVIET CHARGE HAD AGAIN  
ASKED URGENTLY TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM GROMYKO  
TO FAHMY.

2. THIS SECOND MESSAGE REFERS TO YOUR MESSAGE OF  
A FEW DAYS AGO TO GROMYKO, INDICATING THAT THE AGREE-  
MENT WILL BE FORMALLY SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 4 IN GENEVA  
AND THAT YOU INTEND TO SEND A US REPRESENTATIVE  
TO ATTEND SIGNING CEREMONY. YOUR MESSAGE INQUIRES  
IF THE SOVIETS ALSO PLAN TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE  
PRESENT FOR THE SIGNING. SOVIET CHARGE GAVE FAHMY  
FULL TEXT OF GROMYKO'S REPLY, STATING THAT YOU HAD  
PROMISED USG WOULD NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGE OF PARTICI-  
PATE IN ANY PARTIAL SOLUTIONS OUTSIDE OF GENEVA.  
USSR WILL NOT RPT NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO  
GENEVA FOR WHAT IS NO MORE THAN A CEREMONIAL SIGNING.

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3. FAHMY SAID HE TOLD THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT,

ACCORDING TO GROMYKO'S EARLIER MESSAGES TO HIM AFTER YOUR MEETINGS IN GENEVA AND VIENNA, NOTHING WAS STATED SUGGESTING THAT YOU HAD MADE SUCH A COMMITMENT. HE HAD SHOWN THE SOVIET CHARGE THE SOVIET RECORD WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN HIM OF THE MEETING AT GENEVA AND VIENNA. FAHMY URGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS BE REPRESENTED AT TOMORROW'S SIGNING.

4. FAHMY CONTINUED THAT HE ASSUMES YOU WILL ANSWER THIS LATEST GROMYKO MESSAGE TO YOU. IF YOU HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET DONE SO, HE SUGGESTS YOU TRY TO PERSUADE GROMYKO TO PARTICIPATE. YOUR REPLY, IN HIS VIEW, SHOULD BE "ELASTIC" AND SUGGEST RECONSIDERATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION.

5. IF, HOWEVER, GROMYKO REMAINS ADAMANT, FAHMY BELIEVES USG SHOULD ALSO NOT RPT NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE. HE KNOWS ATHERTON IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENT, BUT SUGGESTS LATTER SIMPLY REMAIN AVAILABLE OUTSIDE IF SOVIETS NOT RPT NOT PRESENT. THIS, IN HIS VIEW, WILL DEPRIVE THE SOVIETS OF WHAT WILL OTHERWISE BE A MAJOR PROPAGANDA SUCCESS IN THE ARAB WORLD. HIS ESTIMATE IS THAT OVERALL ARAB WORLD REACTION TO UNILATERAL SOVIET NON-ATTENDANCE WILL ENCOURAGE RADICAL ELEMENTS. IF ON THE OTHER HAND WE AND THE SOVIETS DO NOT RPT NOT ATTEND, RUG IS PULLED OUT FROM UNDER THEM. ARABS WILL THEN INTERPRET SESSION AS A SIMPLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES AND SILASVUUO.

6. FAHMY STRESSED THAT THE DECISION IS ENTIRELY ONE FOR YOU TO TAKE, BUT WANTED YOU TO HAVE HIS VIEWS. HE ADDED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE (PRESUMABLY SAUNDERS) SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE PRESENT FOR SUBSEQUENT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN GENEVA.

7. FAHMY HAS ASKED THAT I MEET WITH HIM AGAIN AT 1930 LOCAL TONIGHT AT WHICH TIME HE WANTSTO TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO SADAT.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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